



## Legislative Bulletin.....September 25, 2007

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**H.Res. \_\_\_\_** — Supporting efforts to increase childhood cancer awareness, treatment, and research

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### Summary of the Bills Under Consideration Today

**Total Number of New Government Programs:** 3

**Total Cost of Discretionary Authorizations:** \$123 million in FY 2007 and \$502 million over the FY 2008 — FY 2012 period.

**Effect on Revenue:** \$4 million decrease

**Total Change in Mandatory Spending:** \$9 million increase

**Total New State & Local Government Mandates:** 0

**Total New Private Sector Mandates:** 1

**Number of Bills Without Committee Reports:** 2

**Number of Reported Bills that Don't Cite Specific Clauses of Constitutional Authority:** 2

## **H.R. 1400 — Iran Counter-Proliferation Act of 2007 (*Lantos, D-CA*)**

**Order of Business:** H.R. 1400 is expected to be considered on Tuesday, September 25, 2007, on a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.R. 1400 would state that it is the sense of Congress that the U.S. should use diplomatic and economic means to resolve the Iranian nuclear problem. In addition, H.R. 1400 clarifies that nothing in the bill shall be construed as authorizing force against Iran.

The bill would subject parent companies of subsidiaries outside of the U.S. that conducted prohibited transactions in Iran to the same penalties that an American company or individual would face. In addition, the bill would impose stricter import restrictions on Iranian goods that come to the U.S.

H.R. 1400 would expand the president's authority to impose sanctions on individuals and block any transactions that involve prohibited property. In addition, the bill would eliminate national security waivers for companies and individuals on whom sanctions are imposed. The president would also be directed to determine how the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps should be designated, either on the list terrorist organization or the list weapons of mass destruction proliferation violators.

The bill would authorize \$59 million for FY 2008 and "such sums" for both FY 2009 and FY 2010 for the purpose of funding the Secretary of Treasury's Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence. Additionally, H.R. 1400 would authorize \$10 million in FY 2008 for the president to establish and carry out an educational and cultural exchange program with Iranian youth.

The bill would explicitly restrict the U.S. government from engaging in any kind of nuclear cooperation with any nation aiding Iran in its efforts to design, develop, or acquire a nuclear device. H.R. 1400 amends the Internal Revenue Code to eliminate certain tax incentives for oil companies that invest in Iran.

Finally, the bill would state that the restrictions against Iran would terminate when the president has determined that Iran:

- has ceased its efforts to design, develop, manufacture, or acquire—
  - a nuclear explosive device or related materials and technology;
  - chemical and biological weapons; and
  - ballistic missiles and ballistic missile launch technology;
- has been removed from the list of countries the governments of which have been determined, to have repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism; and
- poses no significant threat to United States national security, interests, or allies

H.R. 1400 lists a number of findings, including:

- “The prospect of the Islamic Republic of Iran achieving nuclear arms represents a grave threat to the United States and its allies in the Middle East, Europe, and globally;
- “The nature of this threat is manifold, ranging from the vastly enhanced political influence extremist Iran would wield in its region, including the ability to intimidate its neighbors, to, at its most nightmarish, the prospect that Iran would attack its neighbors and others with nuclear arms. This concern is illustrated by the statement of Hashemi Rafsanjani, former president of Iran and currently a prominent member of two of Iran's most important decision making bodies, of December 14, 2001, when he said that it ‘is not irrational to contemplate’ the use of nuclear weapons;
- “The theological nature of the Iranian regime creates a special urgency in addressing Iran’s efforts to acquire nuclear weapons; and
- “The nature of the Iranian threat makes it critical that the United States and its allies do everything possible--diplomatically, politically, and economically--to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear-arms capability and persuade the Iranian regime to halt its quest for nuclear arms.”

**Committee Action:** H.R. 1400 was introduced on March 8, 2007, and was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs as well as the Committees on Ways and Means, Financial Services, Oversight and Government Reform, and the Judiciary. On June 26, 2007, the Committee on Foreign Affairs reported the bill, as amended, by a vote of 37 – 1. On September 24, 2007, the bill was discharged by all other committees.

**Cost to Taxpayer:** According to CBO, H.R. 1400 would authorize **\$116 million in 2008 and \$490 million over the FY 2008 – 2012 period.** The bill would also reduce revenues by \$4 million over the FY 2008 – 2012 period

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** Yes, it expands the president’s power to apply sanctions to individuals and creates a new educational exchange program.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?** Yes, H.R. 1400 would impose private-sector mandates by requiring sanctions on certain imports and exports.

**Constitutional Authority:** House Report [110-294](#) cites Constitutional authority in Article I, Section 8, but does not cite a specific clause. However, House Rule XIII, Section 3(d)(1), requires that all committee reports contain “a statement citing the *specific* powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the law proposed by the bill or joint resolution.” *[emphasis added]*

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**H.Res. 548 — Expressing the ongoing concern of the House of Representatives for Lebanon’s democratic institutions and unwavering support for the administration of justice upon those responsible for the assassination of Lebanese public figures opposing Syrian control of Lebanon (*Ackerman, D-NY*)**

**Order of Business:** H.Res. 548 is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, September 25, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 548 would express the sense that the House of Representatives:

- “condemns the attempts by Hezbollah and other pro-Syrian groups to undermine and intimidate the democratically-elected and legitimate Government of Lebanon by extra-legal means;
- “condemns the campaign of attempted and successful assassinations targeting members of parliament and public figures in favor of Lebanese independence and sovereignty and opposed to Syrian interference in Lebanon, and bombings in civilian areas intended to intimidate the Lebanese people;
- “calls on the Speaker of the Lebanese parliament to convene the parliament without further delay, so that it can fulfill its legislative obligations and pursue the interests of the Lebanese people under the rule of law;
- “confirms the strong support of the United States for United Nations Security Council resolutions concerning Lebanon, and the clear and binding mandate of the international community for the arms embargo and disarmament of all armed groups in Lebanon, and particularly, Hezbollah and Palestinian factions in Lebanon;
- “condemns Syria and Iran for their ongoing roles in providing arms to Lebanese militias, particularly Hezbollah and Palestinian factions in Lebanon, in blatant contravention of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1701;
- “expresses its strong appreciation to Belgium, China, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, the Republic of Korea, Luxemburg, Malaysia, Nepal, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Tanzania, and Turkey for their contributions of military personnel to serve in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), now manned with 13,251 troops of the 15,000 troops authorized in United Nations Security Council Resolution 1701;
- “urges the Government of Lebanon to request UNIFIL’s assistance to secure the Lebanese-Syrian border against the entry of illicit arms or related material under paragraphs 11(f) and 14 of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1701, and pledges earnest American support for this action, should the Government of Lebanon choose to do so;
- “calls on the international community to further support the mission of UNIFIL and efforts by the United Nations Secretary-General to improve the monitoring of

- the Lebanese border in order to effectively implement the arms embargo on armed groups in Lebanon required by United Nations Security Council Resolution 1701;
- “affirms strongly United States support for efforts to bring to justice those responsible for the terrorist bombing of February 14, 2005, and both prior and subsequent politically inspired assassinations, and for the Special Tribunal for Lebanon established by the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1757;
  - “endorses prompt action by the Special Tribunal for Lebanon for the terrorist bombing of February 14, 2005, and both prior and subsequent politically-inspired assassinations, under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter;
  - “pledges continued support for the democratically-elected and legitimate Government of Lebanon and the Lebanese people against the campaign of intimidation, terror, and murder directed at the Lebanese people and at political and public figures opposing Syrian interference in Lebanon;
  - “commends the many Lebanese who continue to adhere steadfastly to the principles of the Cedar Revolution and support the democratically elected and legitimate government of Lebanon;
  - “applauds the Government of Lebanon's efforts to fully extend Lebanon's sovereignty over the entire country through the internal deployments of the Lebanese Armed Forces, including direct action against the Fatah al Islam group, and encourages the Government of Lebanon to intensify these efforts; and
  - “re-affirms its intention to continue to provide financial and material assistance to support the sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity, and political independence of Lebanon under the sole and exclusive authority of the Government of Lebanon.”

**Additional Information:** The resolution lists a number of findings which cite numerous terrorist and military attacks against Lebanese politicians and citizens, including the bombing assassination of Lebanon’s Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and 22 others on February 14, 2005. The killing led to the Cedar Revolution, which resulted in the withdrawal of Syrian troops in April, 2005, after 30 years of military occupation. According to the findings, Lebanon’s democratically elected and legitimate regime’s efforts to exercise full sovereignty and bring the murderers to justice since the revolution have been deliberately thwarted by the efforts Hezbollah, both in Lebanon and Syria. In light of these circumstances, the resolution pledges the United States’ support for the sovereign government of Lebanon.

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 548 was introduced on July 16, 2007, and was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, which held a mark-up and reported the bill, as amended, by unanimous consent on July 31, 2007.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution does not authorize expenditures.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?** No.

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## **H.R. 1302 — Global Poverty Act of 2007 (*Smith, D-WA*)**

**Order of Business:** H.R. 1302 is expected to be considered on Tuesday, September 25, 2007, on a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.R. 1302 would declare that it is the stated policy of the United States to “promote the reduction of global poverty, the elimination of extreme global poverty, and the achievement of the United Nations Millennium Development Goal of reducing by one-half the proportion of people worldwide, between 1990 and 2015, who live on less than \$1 per day.”

In order to meet this goal, the bill would require the president, acting through the Secretary of State, in cooperation with other interested entities, to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to eliminate extreme global poverty. The strategy would also have to outline plans to achieve the United Nations Millennium Development Goal of reducing the number of people who live on less than \$1 per day by one-half by 2015. The strategy would have to follow specific and measurable goals and timetables to achieve the described objections.

The strategy would also have to be comprised of certain components, which include:

- Continued investment in existing international poverty initiatives, such as the United States Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act of 2003, the Millennium Challenge Act of 2003, and trade preference programs for developing countries.
- Improving the effectiveness of development assistance.
- Enhancing and expanding debt relief as appropriate.
- Mobilizing and leveraging the participation of businesses, nongovernmental organizations, civil society, and public-private partnerships.
- Coordinating the goal of poverty reduction with other development goals, such as combating the spread of preventable diseases such as HIV/AIDS.

Within one year of enactment, the president would transmit a report to the appropriate congressional committee containing an outline of the strategy. The president would have to issue a similar report on the progress of the strategy every two years until 2015.

**Additional Information:** According to findings listed in the bill, there are one billion people worldwide living in extreme poverty (defined as living on \$1 or less per day) and another 1.6 billion living in global poverty (less than \$2 per day). In 2000, the United States joined 180 countries at the United Nations Millennium Summit and pledged to work toward the summits goals to improve life in the world’s poorest nations by 2015. In addition to reducing global poverty, the Millennium Development Goals include reducing

the number of people without food and safe drinking water, reducing child mortality and reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS and malaria.

While in committee, H.R. 1302 was amended to replace broad endorsements of increasing foreign aid with more specific language and debt relief and to lessen the report burden from once annually to once every two years. The amendment was accepted by voice vote. In addition, the bill would authorize no new expenditures.

For more information on the U.N.'s Millennium Development Goals, visit this website: <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/goals.html>.

**Committee Action:** H.R. 1302 was introduced on March 1, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs. On July 31, 2007, a mark-up was held and the bill was reported, as amend, by unanimous consent.

**Cost to Taxpayer:** A CBO score for H.R. 1302 is not available.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** Yes, the bill directs the president to create and implement a strategy to reduce global poverty.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?** No.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable. However, House Rule XIII, Section 3(d)(1), requires that all committee reports contain “a statement citing the *specific* powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the law proposed by the bill or joint resolution.” *[emphasis added]*

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**H.Res. 642 — Expressing sympathy to and support for the people and governments of the countries of Central America, the Caribbean, and Mexico which have suffered from Hurricanes Felix, Dean, and Henriette and whose complete economic and fatality toll are still unknown  
(Solis, D-CA)**

**Order of Business:** H.Res. 642 is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, September 25, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 642 would express the sense that the House of Representatives:

- “expresses its sympathy to and support for the people and governments of the countries of Central America, the Caribbean, and Mexico in this time of devastation;

- “vows its continued friendship and support for our neighbors in Central America, the Caribbean, and Mexico;
- “urges all parties to continue their efforts in evacuating and providing aid to those individuals displaced by the hurricanes;
- “recognizes the United States Government's initial efforts to provide assistance to populations affected by the hurricanes and urges increased and continued assistance as the effects of the hurricanes continue to unfold;
- “encourages public institutions, specialized agencies, as well as private citizens, to offer their resources; and
- “recognizes the efforts of relief organizations, including the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and the international community, in aiding the people and governments involved.”

H.Res. 642 lists a number of findings, including:

- “on September 4, 2007, Hurricane Felix, a Category 5 storm, hit the Nicaragua-Honduras border, causing over 40,000 people in Nicaragua and Honduras to be evacuated, and killing at least 100 people;
- “just weeks before, Hurricane Dean, a Category 5 storm, hit Mexico and the Caribbean coast, killed 27 persons, displaced over 260,000 persons, and destroyed over 36,000 homes
- “Hurricane Henriette, a Category 1 storm, made landfall along the Baja California peninsula of Mexico hours after Hurricane Felix made landfall, the first time since 1949 that two Atlantic and Pacific hurricanes hit land on the same day;
- “for the first time in the recorded history of hurricanes, two Category 5 storms, Hurricanes Dean and Felix, made landfall during the same year;
- “Honduras and Nicaragua, the poorest countries of Central America, have economies that rely heavily on limited agricultural exports, which make both countries extremely vulnerable to natural disasters; and
- “Honduras and Nicaragua were still rebuilding after the devastating effects of Hurricane Mitch in 1998, which killed nearly 11,000 people and left more than 8,000 people missing, destroyed the infrastructures and economies of both countries, and caused billions of dollars in damage.”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 642 was introduced on September 7, 2007, and was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, which took no official action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution does not authorize expenditures.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?** No.

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**H.Res. 557 — Strongly condemning the United Nations Human Rights Council for ignoring severe human rights abuses in various countries, while choosing to unfairly target Israel by including it as the only country permanently placed on the Council's agenda (Campbell, R-CA)**

**Order of Business:** H.Res. 557 is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, September 25, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 557 would express the sense that the House of Representatives:

- “strongly condemns the United Nations Human Rights Council for ignoring severe human rights abuses in other countries, while choosing to unfairly target Israel;
- “strongly urges the Council to remove Israel from its permanent agenda;
- “strongly urges the Council to hold special sessions to address other countries where human rights abuses are being committed, adopt real reform as was intended for the Council when it replaced the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, and reaffirm the principle of human dignity consistent with the original intent envisioned at the Council's establishment;
- “strongly urges the United States to make every effort in the General Assembly to ensure that the Council lives up to its mission to protect human rights around the world, in accordance with United Nations General Assembly Resolution 60/251 establishing the Council; and
- “strongly urges the United States to work with the United Nations General Assembly to ensure that only countries who have a well-established commitment to protecting human rights are chosen to serve on the Council.”

H.Res. 557 lists a number of findings, including:

- “the former United Nations Human Rights Commission was widely discredited for its incessant attacks against Israel and for granting membership to Cuba, Zimbabwe, China, Saudi Arabia, and other countries that were notorious human rights violators;
- “China, Cuba, and Saudi Arabia are members of the Human Rights Council;
- “in the past year that the United Nations Human Rights Council has been in existence, the Council has held four special sessions to address pressing human rights situations;
- “of those four sessions, three were condemning Israel for their possible human right abuses in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and in Lebanon, and the fourth special session was a non-condemnatory expression of ‘concern’ regarding the situation in Darfur, Sudan;
- “the Human Rights Council has failed to adequately address a number of other pressing human rights concerns throughout the world

- “between June 10 and 15, 2007, Hamas-armed gunman violently took over the Gaza Strip, executing men, women, and children; and
- “during its fifth session, the Human Rights Council voted to make Israel the only country permanently included on its agenda.”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 557 was introduced on July 19, 2007, and was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, which held a mark-up and reported the bill, as amended, by unanimous consent on July 31, 2007

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution does not authorize expenditures.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?** No.

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## **H.Res. 95 — Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives supporting the goals and ideals of Campus Fire Safety Month, and for other purposes (*Jones, D-OH*)**

**Order of Business:** H.Res. 95 is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, September 25, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 95 would express the sense that the House of Representatives:

- “supports the goals and ideals of Campus Fire Safety Month;
- “encourages administrators and municipalities across the country to provide educational programs to all students during September and throughout the school year; and
- “encourages administrators and municipalities to evaluate the level of fire safety being provided in both on- and off-campus student housing and take the necessary steps to ensure fire-safe living environments through fire safety education, installation of fire suppression and detection systems and the development and enforcement of applicable codes relating to fire safety.”

H.Res. 95 lists a number of findings, including:

- “in 2006, thirty-one states issued proclamations recognizing September as Campus Fire Safety Month;
- “since January 2000, at least ninety-nine people, including students, parents, and children have died in student housing fires;

- “a number of fatal fires have occurred in buildings where the fire safety systems have been compromised or disabled by the occupants;
- “it is recognized that fire safety education is an effective method of reducing the occurrence of fires and reducing the resulting loss of life and property damage; and
- “students are not routinely receiving effective fire safety education throughout their entire college career.”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 95 was introduced on January 24, 2007, and was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor, which took no official action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution does not authorize expenditures.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?** No.

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## **H.Res. 25 — Calling on the Board of Directors of the National High School Mock Trial Championship to accommodate students of all religious faiths (*Rothman, D-NJ*)**

**Order of Business:** H.Res. 25 is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, September 25, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 25 would express the sense that the House of Representatives:

- “calls on the Board of Directors of the National High School Mock Trial Championship to accommodate the religious beliefs of students participating in the competition; and
- “urges the Board of Directors of the National High School Mock Trial Championship to restructure the rules of the competition to allow qualifying students of all faiths to compete fully in this national championship without betraying their religious beliefs.”

H.Res. 25 lists a number of findings, including:

- “the National High School Mock Trial Championship is a program based on constitutional law;
- “the usual National High School Mock Trial Championship schedule consists of two rounds on Friday and two rounds on Saturday, followed by a Championship round on Saturday;

- “the members of the mock trial team from Torah Academy observe the Sabbath, in accordance with their practice of Orthodox Judaism, and would not have been able to participate in any National High School Mock Trial Championship competitions from sundown on Friday through sundown on Saturday without certain accommodations;
- “satisfactory accommodations were made to allow Torah Academy of Teaneck, New Jersey, to compete during the last National High School Mock Trial Championship held in Charlotte, North Carolina, from May 5-7, 2005, without violating the religious practices of the students;
- “the Board of Trustees of the New Jersey State Bar Foundation unanimously voted at its October 27, 2005, meeting that New Jersey will not compete in the National High School Mock Trial Championship unless the National Board establishes a policy permitting accommodation for religious observance; and
- “all students should be allowed to both compete fully in the National High School Mock Trial Championship and uphold the practice of their religion.”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 25 was introduced on January 4, 2007, and was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor, which took no official action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution does not authorize expenditures.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?** No.

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## **H.R. 3625 — To make permanent the waiver authority of the Secretary of Education with respect to student financial assistance during a war or other military operation or national emergency (*Sestak, D-NJ*)**

**Order of Business:** H.R. 3625 is expected to be considered on Tuesday, September 25, 2007, on a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.R. 3625 would repeal the termination date in the Higher Education Relief Opportunities for Students Act of 2003, thus making the legislation permanent.

The Higher Education Relief Opportunities for Students Act of 2003 authorizes the Secretary of Education to waive or modify any requirements or regulations for Title IV student financial assistance programs for any affected individual who:

- Is serving on active duty during a war or other military operation or national emergency;

- Is performing qualifying National Guard duty during a war, operation, or emergency;
- Resides or is employed in an area that is declared a disaster area by any Federal, State, or local official in connection with a national emergency; or
- Suffered direct economic hardship as a direct result of a war or other military operation or national emergency

H.R. 3625 also states that it is the sense of Congress that:

- “the Higher Education Relief Opportunities for Students Act of 2003 addresses the unique situations that active duty military personnel and other affected individuals may face in connection with their enrollment in postsecondary institutions and their Federal student loans; and
- “the provisions authorized by such Act should be made permanent, thereby allowing the Secretary of Education to continue providing assistance to active duty service members and other affected individuals and their families.”

**Additional Information:** The Higher Education Relief Opportunities for Students Act of 2003 (HEROES), which was signed by President Bush on August 18, 2003, was sponsored by Rep. John Kline (R-MN) and passed the House under a suspension of the rules on April 1, 2003, by a roll call vote of [421 – 1](#). To read the original RSC Legislative Bulletin on the legislation, see the link below:

<http://www.house.gov/hensarling/rsc/doc/LB4103.pdf>.

**Committee Action:** H.R. 3625 was introduced on September 20, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Education and Labor, which took no official action.

**Cost to Taxpayer:** A CBO score for H.R. 3625 is not available. However, the bill does not authorize any expenditure.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?** No.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable. However, House Rule XIII, Section 3(d)(1), requires that all committee reports contain “a statement citing the *specific* powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the law proposed by the bill or joint resolution.” *[emphasis added]*

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**H.Res. 590 — Supporting the goals and ideals of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month and expressing the sense of the House of**

**Representatives that Congress should raise awareness of domestic violence in the United States and its devastating effects on families and communities (Poe, R-TX)**

**Order of Business:** H.Res. 590 is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, September 25, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 590 would express the sense that the House of Representatives:

- “supports the goals and ideals of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month; and
- “expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that Congress should continue to raise awareness of domestic violence in the United States and its devastating effects on families and communities”

H.Res. 590 lists a number of findings, including:

- “one in four women will experience domestic violence sometime in her life;
- “domestic violence affects people of all ages, racial, ethnic, economic, and religious backgrounds;
- “the annual cost of lost productivity due to domestic violence is estimated as \$727,800,000 with over \$7,900,000 paid workdays lost per year;
- “40 to 60 percent of men who abuse women also abuse children;
- “adolescent girls who reported dating violence were 60 percent more likely to report one or more suicide attempts in the past year;
- “88 percent of men think that our society should do more to respect women and girls; and
- “individuals and organizations that are dedicated to preventing and ending domestic violence should be recognized.”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 590 was introduced on July 31, 2007, and was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor. On September 19, 2007, the resolution was referred to the Subcommittee on Healthy Families and Communities, which took no official action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution does not authorize expenditures.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?** No.

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**H.R. 1943 — Stop AIDS in Prison Act of 2007 (*Waters, D-CA*)**

**Order of Business:** H.R. 1943 is expected to be considered on Tuesday, September 25, 2007, on a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.R. 1943 would direct the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) to develop and provide comprehensive HIV testing, treatment, and prevention for prison inmates.

The bill would require that medical personnel must provide HIV testing to all inmates following admission (currently such tests are only given to inmates serving terms of six months or longer).

In addition, the BOP would be directed to provide “frequent” HIV/AIDS awareness education programs. The bill would also require the BOP to provide educational materials concerning HIV/AIDS to inmates. In addition, the BOP would be have to administer HIV/AIDS testing to any inmate that wished at least once a year, or more frequently if the inmate is concerned that they might have been exposed to HIV/AIDS.

H.R. 1943 would require that inmates diagnosed with HIV/AIDS are given timely, comprehensive medical care, confidential medical counseling and voluntary partner notification services. BOP medical personnel would be directed develop and implement procedures to ensure the confidentiality of inmates.

This bill would allow for any inmate to opt out of any of the annual HIV/AIDS testing.

The BOP would be required to issue a report on the implantation of these requirements within one year.

**Additional Information:** According to House Report [110 – 342](#):

HIV/AIDS in prison poses a threat not only to prison inmates and prison employees, but ultimately to the community at large. Prisoners who are unaware of their condition or who do not know how to keep others safe from the infection can unwittingly infect fellow prisoners. Prison workers, including corrections officers, healthcare workers, and administrators, are also at risk from exposure incidents resulting from close interaction with the prison population. The threat to the community at large comes from infected prisoners being released without having had the proper screening, education, and treatment, thereby exposing friends and loved ones to the disease.

The bill may have a particularly beneficial effect on minority communities. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, racial minorities comprise 69% of all new HIV/AIDS cases in the nation. Since African Americans are disproportionately represented in the inmate population--41 percent of all inmates in the prison system at the end of 2004, according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics--the risks associated with contracting HIV/AIDS in prison are one factor putting minority communities at higher risk of exposure. The Stop AIDS in Prison

Act is therefore one way to begin reversing the high incidence of HIV/AIDS in minority communities.

**Committee Action:** H.R. 1943 was introduced on February 7, 2007, and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary on April 19, 2007. On May 4, 2007, the bill was referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, which held hearings on May 22, 2007, and reported the bill to the full committee following a mark-up on July 24, 2007. On July 25, 2007, the full committee held a mark-up and reported the bill, as amended, by voice vote.

**Cost to Taxpayer:** According to CBO, H.R. 1943 would authorize **\$3 million in 2008 and \$12 million over the FY 2008 – 2012 period.**

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** Yes, it requires the Bureau of Prisons to expand its HIV/AIDS testing requirements.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?** No.

**Constitutional Authority:** House Report [110 – 342](#) cites Constitutional authority in Article I Section 8, but fails to cite a specific Clause. However, House Rule XIII, Section 3(d)(1), requires that all committee reports contain “a statement citing the *specific* powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the law proposed by the bill or joint resolution.” *[emphasis added]*

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### **H.Res. 470 — Supporting efforts to increase childhood cancer awareness, treatment, and research (Pryce, R-OH)**

**Order of Business:** H.Res. 470 is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, September 25, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 470 would express the sense the House that Congress should:

- “public and private sector efforts to promote awareness about the incidence of cancer among children, the signs and symptoms of cancer in children, treatment options, and long-term follow-up;
- “increased public and private investment in childhood cancer research to improve prevention, diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation, post-treatment monitoring, and long-term survival;
- “policies that provide incentives to encourage medical trainees and investigators to enter the field of pediatric oncology;
- “policies that provide incentives to encourage the development of drugs and biologics designed to treat pediatric cancers;



- “policies that encourage participation in clinical trials;
- “medical education curricula designed to improve pain management for cancer patients; and
- “policies that enhance education, services, and other resources related to late effects from treatment.”

H.Res. 470 lists a number of findings, including:

- “an estimated 12,400 children are diagnosed with cancer annually;
- “cancer is the leading cause of death by disease in children under age 15;
- “an estimated 2,300 children die from cancer each year;
- “1 in every 330 Americans develops cancer before age 20;
- “peer-reviewed clinical trials are the standard of care for pediatrics and have improved cancer survival rates among children;
- “the number of survivors of childhood cancers continues to grow, with about 1 in 640 adults between ages 20 to 39 who have a history of cancer;
- “some late effects of cancer treatment are identified early in follow-up and are easily resolved, while others may become chronic problems in adulthood and may have serious consequences; and
- “89 percent of children with cancer experience substantial suffering in the last month of life.”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 470 was introduced on June 7, 2007, and was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, which took no further action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution does not authorize expenditures.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?** No.

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## H.Res. \_\_\_\_— To correct technical errors in the enrollment of the bill H.R. 3580 (*Dingell, D-MI*)

**Order of Business:** H.Res. \_\_\_\_ is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, September 25, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** The text of H.Res. \_\_\_\_ is not currently available.

**Additional Information:** H.R. 3580, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to revise and extend the user-fee programs for prescription drugs and for medical devices, to enhance the postmarket authorities of the Food and Drug Administration with

respect to the safety of drugs, and for other purposes, was passed under a suspension of the rules on September 19, 2007, by a vote of [405 – 7](#).

**Committee Action:** None.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** Unknown, but expected to be none.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** N/A

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?** N/A

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## **H.R. 3375 — To extend the trade adjustment assistance program under the Trade Act of 1974 for 3 months (Herger, R-CA)**

**Order of Business:** H.R. 3375 is expected to be considered on Tuesday, September 25, 2007, on a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.R. 3375 would authorize and extension of certain Trade Adjust Assistance (TAA) Programs for three months, until December 31, 2007. Under current law, the authority for TAA for Firms, TAA for Farmers and Fishermen, and TAA for Workers is scheduled to expire on September 30, 2007.

**Additional Information:** According to House Report [110 – 345](#), legislation reauthorizing and reforming the Trade Adjustment Assistance program is in the process of being developed and should be introduced shortly. Introduction and consideration of the legislation will not, however, occur before the program’s expiration on September 30, 2007. Thus, until the comprehensive TAA reform and reauthorization bill is passed and enacted into law, an extension of the existing ensures that individuals and firms that are thought to be adversely affected by trade are given assistance.

In order to extend the TAA for farmers program for three months, the bill authorizes and appropriates \$9 million through December 31, 2007. According to the committee, “Because of the language in the underlying law, extending the Adjustment Assistance for Farmers program required authorizing and appropriating funds to cover the cost of the program for the duration of the extension.” The authorization and appropriation is scored by CBO as \$9 million in mandatory spending.

For more information on TAA programs, please visit:

<http://www.doleta.gov/tradeact/benefits.cfm>.

**Committee Action:** H.R. 3375 was introduced on August 3, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, which held a mark-up on September 18, 2007, and reported the bill, as amended, by voice vote.

**Cost to Taxpayer:** According to CBO, H.R. 3375 would authorize \$4 million in FY 2008 and increase mandatory spending \$9 million in FY 2008.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?** No.

**Constitutional Authority:** House Report [110 – 345](#) cites Constitutional authority in Article I, Section 8, the General Welfare Clause

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